



# SUTTON COURTE NAY

## NEWS VOL 2 3

No 12 1974

### VILLAGE DIARY FOR DECEMBER

- Dec. 1 Family Service at All Saints' 11 am. Confirmation enrolment after 6.30 pm Evensong.
- Dec. 3 Parish Council. 7.30 pm. Wives Group: Visit to Scoops.
- Dec. 4 Darby & Joan. Bingo; Woolworths Shopping Expedition.  
"Under Fives" at Vicarage. 2.30 pm.
- Dec. 7 Wives Group Dance. Ticket Holders only.
- Dec. 8 Bible Sunday. Services 8am, 10am, 11 am. 6.30 pm.
- Dec. 9 Camera Club A.G.M. and "Picture of the Year".
- Dec. 10 Wives Group Dance. Childrens Disco.
- Dec. 11 Youth Club Disco 8 - 10.30 pm. Admission 25p.
- Dec. 15 Family Communion at All Saints' 10 am. Evensong 6.30 pm.
- Dec. 16 School Carol Service - 7 pm. at Christ Church
- Dec. 18 Darby & Joan. Fish and Chp Tea. Mr. Hutchins Talk: "Wool"  
"Under Fives" 2.30 pm. at Vicarage  
"Christmas Round the World": 7 pm. at School
- Dec. 19 School Term ends. Senior Citizens Dinner
- Dec. 21 St. Thomas. Holy Communion 7.45 am. at All Saints'.
- Dec. 22 Services at All Saints', 8 am and 11 am. 6.30 pm. (No Junior
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. 11.30 pm. Midnight Communion All Saints' Church)
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day. Holy Communion at All Saints', 8 & 10 am.  
Family Service 11 am.
- Dec. 26 St. Stephen. Holy Communion 9.45 am. at All Saints'.
- Dec. 29 Services at All Saints'. 8 am & 11 am. Candlelit Carol Service 6.30 pm.

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.  
COPY DAY for the next issue is Wednesday, 11th December. Please take contributions to the Editor, Mary Thompson, 124 High Street, the Post Office or Rogers' Shop before Copy Day.

2.  
Brief advertisements, letters etc. are welcomed. The rate is 5p. per line (except for trade advertisements).

THANKS this month to Miss Cunnington for the cover. She found time to do it despite the work involved in her recent very successful exhibition which many people enjoyed. She also tells me that she and her group of ladies are now knitting their nineteenth blanket for OXFAM!

WELCOME TO SUTTON COURTENAY Mr. and Mrs. I. Spalding, 1 Tullis Close.

WANTED: Retired couple still anxious to find undercover permanent accommodation for a 2 berth caravan. Any suggestions considered. Kindly ring S.C. 7113 - any evening.

YOUNG LADY (Culham student) requires temporary employment during Christmas vacation (approx. 17th Dec. to 9th Jan.) Nanny or light domestic duties; full or part-time.  
Apply: Miss Gillian M. Causdale (c/o Mrs. Griffiths) S.C. 480.

WANTED Girl's bicycle in good condition. Suit 11 year-old.  
124 High St., or S.C. 527.

#### A GOOD DEED

Many thanks to the Sutton Courtenay Scouts for clearing up the site of Christ Church.  
Christ Church parishioners would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull for their work in organising the bingo on their behalf.

CHRISTMAS DINNER, Dec. 19. To all Senior Citizens - anyone aged 65 or over who has not received a notice by Dec. 6, please contact Mrs. Curran, 10 Harwell Road.

#### SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Both Sutton Courtenay Brownie Packs are collecting stamps, British and Foreign, for a charitable cause. Please save your stamps and give them to your nearest Brownie.

FAMILY PANTOMINE - "Give a Dog a Bone" - Dec. 5th - Feb. 1st. Miss Band would like to arrange a group of children to visit this show. Cost about £1 a ticket, £1 for the coach. Please contact Miss Band if you are interested in this family entertainment - White End, Chapel Lane.

GEORGE & DRAGON Sutton Courtenay 252. Hot meals and cold snacks available lunchtimes Monday to Saturday. Three course Sunday lunch - bookings only. Basket snacks available most evenings.

#### FUNERAL SERVICE

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EDITORIAL: Visitors to the Village Hall will have noticed that the large hall has had a face-lift. This is largely thanks to the efforts of Mr. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull and the very few helpers who carried out the work and we should all be very grateful to them. Despite the appeal in last month's "News", there was little response to the request for help in this marathon task. I would have thought that every organisation that uses the Hall could have sent at least one representative to assist, for the Hall exists for the benefit of all members of the community.

OUR OWN APPEAL for financial contributions did, I am pleased to say, meet with some response and to date the following donations have been received: - S.C. Community Club - £20; Village Hall Committee - £5; Friends of Sutton Courtenay - £5; Camera Club - £2; F.D.C. Astor - £10. We are very grateful for this help - but would welcome more! We know some organisations are small, and their gifts are therefore particularly appreciated.

CHILDREN! Don't forget to let us have your contributions for a special edition of the News!

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### A D V E R T I S I N G 1975.

We will shortly be producing a new advertising page for 1975 (Jan. '75 - Jan. '76). To assist in the preparation of this will all current advertisers, and any new ones who wish to be included in the list please notify Mrs. Cook, 10 Southfield Drive, S.C. 632 by DECEMBER 2nd, as the new page will be printed that week. It is with regret that we announce an increase in the advertising rate for the year - to £5 - due to the very heavy increase in production costs. Payment is due by the end of January, and cheques should be made out to "Sutton Courtenay News" and sent to Mrs. Cook at the above address. Anyone in or out of the village is welcome to advertise and it has proved of great benefit to many of our advertisers. Late advertisements can be included in another page, but the charge will be 60p per month.

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### OWNERSHIP OF TREES

An interesting letter was received by the Parish Council from the Area Surveyor concerning trees near the highway. ".... Contrary to popular belief most trees within highway limits are not the responsibility of the Highway Authority. Case law over many years has led to the accepted principle that unless land has been acquired by the Authority for road improvements or the trees planted by an authorised organisation trees are the responsibility of the land owner of the property fronting the road. The land over which the Highway Authority provides a road for the public to pass freely is invariably owned to the centre line by the adjoining land owner." So if you have trees in front of your house, you're stuck with them!

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### YOU AND YOUR SUGAR - OR LACK OF IT!

This information comes from one of our shopkeepers, and explains why, in the village, sugar is in such short supply. TATE & LYLE have allocated sugar supplies on orders placed last November. Tate & Lyle will not deliver less than 24 parcels (a parcel being 14 x 2lbs bags of sugar) so that if a shop is allocated 3 parcels a week, it will be 8 weeks from delivery to delivery, or possibly more due to transport problems. 24 parcels of sugar represent 336 2lb bags of sugar, and most shops in this village could easily sell out of that amount in 2 days. Only by your help can we make sure that everyone in the village gets sugar fairly.

### A SHORT TOUR OF THE VILLAGE

During the Interlude in the Son et Lumiere last August, slides were shown by Mrs. Clifford to illustrate some of the houses concerned in the presentation. The following is a resume of the account which was spoken to accompany the slides.

The audience was asked to imagine that it was leaving the Church and passing by the side of the Green and through the avenue of elms (over 300 years old) which leads to the Rectory House, now called The Abbey. It has been used, thanks to Mr. David Astor, by the Ockenden Venture, and was built about 650 years ago. For half of that time it was occupied by the Justice family, who rented it and its farm from the Dean and Canons of St. George's, Windsor. Its large hall, one of the few in England to have remained open to the rafters, formed a fine setting for a throne for the Dalai Lama when he came here in October, 1973 and received homage from the Tibetan community in Britain. In one wing is the great chamber that was set apart for the personal use of the rectors, such as Thomas Bekynton himself, when they came to stay here. The high quality of the carved musicians that adorn the fireplace illustrate its importance.

The audience was then taken to Uptown Farm, passing in the High Street the interesting gabled house on which there is the date 1631 and the initials WA and EA, standing for William Andrews and his wife - their benefaction to the poor is recorded at the back of the church.

Uptown Farm with its thatched barn used to mark the limit of the village, hence its former name, Upend Farm. For long it was the home of the Curtis family, probably back to Reginald Cortys, who was a witness to a Sutton deed in 1274. Upend Farm gave us two Curtis churchwardens as well as our present one, Mr. Cecil Allen. There are memorials to the Curtis family in the aisles and chancel of the church. The barn was seen from the inside to be of cruck construction. It is at least 500 years old.

Manor House: Next the audience was taken to the present Manor House - formerly called Brounces Court. Its occupants have always been associated with the chapel, formerly the Brouns chantry, in the south aisle of the church. The house lies close to where the stream called Ginge joins the Thames and near the ancient wharf. The river-borne goods that awaited loading or unloading may have been stored in the stone-walled range on the south side of the house, which is the oldest part and perhaps of Norman date.

The hall, formerly open to the rafters, was built about 1390 by William Brouns, Knight of the Shire. Next to it and at the south-east corner are the rooms, marked by half-timbering, added in the time of Queen Mary. A century later, soon after the Restoration, the front was given its gabled appearance by the young heiress, Katherine Wollascot, to whom there is a stone on the floor of the chantry chapel. Then in 1812 Francis Elderfield, from the yeoman family of that name in Harwell, bought first this property and also, from the Earl of Craven, the lands of the Manor. He endowed our almshouses and left two daughters as his heirs. To Priscilla the elder there is a memorial in the chapel, while the younger, Elizabeth, married Squire Barrett of Milton, after whose family our Barrett's Way is named.

There can still be seen one pier of the imposing gateway that led to the Manor House. Through it the Prince of Wales and his friends would have passed in late Victorian times when they came in their carriages to visit the Lindsays who by then had made the house their residence.



Norman Hall: This building in the French (not Norman) style, was restored by Capt. Lindsay after having served as the centre of the Manor Farm for many centuries. Through its central doorway, Robert Courtenay would have led his friends in the reign of Richard I. Nearby, many timber buildings that existed when William the Conqueror and Henry I made their visits, have disappeared.

From the Causeway on the other side of the wide Mill Stream the audience was given a view of the Wharf Barn, converted by Margot Asquith to form her "retreat" from the visitors who gathered round the Asquiths at the Wharf. This house was built for them by Walter Cave in 1912, and it was here, sixty years ago, that Asquith and members of his cabinet decided that Germany's invasion of Belgium must be answered by a Declaration of War.

The Mill House was built in 1741 and enlarged sixty years later. For a long time it looked out to the paper mill and pound lock, while later it was used by relations and friends of the Asquiths. From thence the audience was taken to Courtenay Lodge, occupied last century by Edward Pullen, a prominent farmer, and early this century by Captain Fox's School. The shell porch implies that the front was added in the time of Queen Anne. And so back to the Church.

John Fletcher,

Bekynton House, Sutton Courtenay.

### JOHN MASON SCHOOL - TOP OF THE FORM CONTEST

Besides being an honour to represent the school in this national competition, it was something of a responsibility. There is a terrific amount of pressure on you when you are sitting up there on the stage - something which is difficult to imagine unless you have been through a similar experience. In the days prior to each round, we were constantly taking encouragement from the "Good Luck" wishes from members of the school. The will to win was fortified on hearing that the first round opposition was to be Purbrook Park, Portsmouth, a school which had already beaten us in an important basketball match. We were delighted to win this round, but this never really outweighed the disappointment of losing the second round, or quarter-finals. We were consoled by members of the school in the same spirit in which they had previously wished us well, and we felt how disappointed they were as well. We were helped through both ordeals by the friendly guidance of the B.B.C. representatives, without which things could have been much more difficult.

We all hope that the school will again enter this competition and perhaps be a little more successful then.

Stuart Smith.

(Broadcast on Friday, 23rd November, repeat Saturday.)

### LOCAL PUBLIC INQUIRY

The Public Inquiry will take place at 10 a.m., 18th December at the Guildhall, Abingdon, into the Appeal by the Association for the Study of Human Nutrition in connection with the building of a Research Institute, 47 houses, and permission to demolish listed agricultural buildings.

SECRETARIES, SECRETARIES, SECRETARIES! Information for the 1975 Directory NOW please!

The following letter will appear in the January issue of "The Architectural Review" following publication of an illustrated article on the Didcot power station.

Sir:

The writer of this letter admires the stagecraft of your photographs and respects the magnificence of the Gibberd architecture of the Didcot power station. He also lives three miles (as the smoke flies) from the site and still hankers foolishly for the Thames valley he once knew. This is naive and unmodern. Lord Robens wanted to sell coal, Lord Beeching wanted his railways to go far and the planners decided that the Thames valley should now have a new centre piece, a 2000 MW power station fired by coal (to which some critics answered at the time that it was obsolete even on the drawing board). This assembly of six shapes of the size of the Park Lane Hilton, one block of the Ministry of Defence dimensions plus one smoke stack the height of the Post Office Tower, is the dominant accent, not the medieval church towers and pretty villages, clumps of trees and earthworks.

As an exercise in siting it is masterly - it is ruling over our world whether you are in your garden, boating on the river or just entering the valley over the Chilterns, the Berkshire Downs, from the Cotswolds or from Oxford over Boars Hill, or even flying over on the Trans-Atlantic route. It deposits daily 20 tons of fly ash over South Oxfordshire and swallows up much of the scarce Thames water. It can not only be seen but also heard: it frequently clears its throat in a thundering manner - but then the Concorde from Fairford makes nearly as much noise. It is all rather sad, but enough of nostalgia. We must be our age. Expediency is all - as an eminent town planner said to me at the time of building: don't you want fresh electricity every morning?

Yours etc.

Franta Belsky, Sutton Courtenay.

#### FRIENDS OF SUTTON COURTENAY

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Sutton Courtenay was held at the Village Hall on 11th October, 1974, and the following Committee was elected:-

Chairman - Mr. T.R. Moss; Secretary - Mrs. Phelps; Treasurer - Major Potts. Committee Members: Mrs. Francis, Miss Collier, Maj.-Gen. Phelps, Mr. Ford, Dr. Evans, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. C. Rogers.

In the Committee's Report mention was made of the seat and two trees placed in the High Street which are an attractive addition to the village. It is hoped that, with the permission of the Thames Conservancy, some seats could be placed around the attractive walk near the river - possibly railway sleepers mounted on tree trunks. The Report pointed out that the Society exists to help the village in any way possible and hoped that members would feel free to raise matters with the Committee - for example, the gravel pits are to be filled in, starting with those in Appleford, and the Committee would welcome any comments on this subject.

The annual subscription of 25p is now due and should be paid to the Treasurer, Major Potts, Old School House, Sutton Courtenay.



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